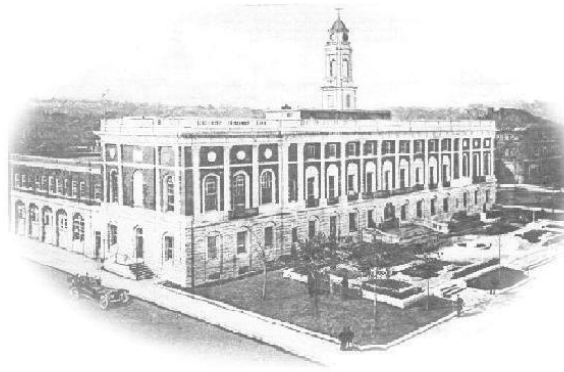


DAVID M. DIETSCH
ASSESSOR



Department of Assessments
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OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR
The City of Waterbury
CONNECTICUT

February 26, 2016

Re: **Opposition** to GB 5047
AN ACT CONCERNING EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE PROPERTY TAX

Esteemed Members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I write this testimony in opposition of GB 5047 An Act Concerning Exemptions under the Property Tax. The \$10,000 exemption will cost The City of Waterbury \$340,000 a year. The State Tax Panel's final report dated December 31, 2015 is fairly accurate with the projections regarding the number of accounts effected but it is totally off base suggesting it would make for a lesser work load.

We would potentially exempt 52% of the 3205 personal property accounts in the city which would account for 1.4% of the total grand list. But the work load will remain and even exceed the current level. The 1,667 accounts that might qualify will still need to file a declaration. We will still need to process that declaration, determine if it qualifies, apply the exemption, and record it in the Grand List. I know in my office it will stimulate the need for more audits pursuant to CGS 12-53 as taxpayers will want to come in under the \$10,000 threshold. Some will do it legitimately by holding off on purchasing new equipment, while others will look to more creative book keeping.

Section 1 of GB 5047 is nothing more than an unfunded mandate. Every municipality in the State stands to lose money if this section is passed. I don't think any town would object if the State were to offer this exemption back to the Personal Property owner in the form of a tax credit on the income tax, but as it is written, this bill needs to be **opposed**.